



THE RARA RAG

Newsletter of The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Founded in 1931

OCTOBER MEETING: AN UPDATE ON POTA, KARL HEINZ KREMER, K5KHK

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT

It has been almost four years since we last heard about Parks on the Air - or POTA - in our monthly meetings. A lot has changed since then, but more has actually stayed the same: POTA is still a fun activity that combines outdoor activities with ham radio for those willing to activate a park, and plenty of active parks for those that chose to hunt from home. Karl Heinz Kremer - K5KHK - with the help of Susan W2SBA and Suzanne W2SUZ will tell us more about this fun amateur radio activity. Karl Heinz is the New York Mapping Representative for the POTA program.

The picture shows Karl Heinz at park K-2001 - the Adirondacks, doing a /MM (maritime mobile) POTA activation. You must admit that looks like a lot of fun!

You can join us online or in person. If you have been mostly online to our meetings recently consider joining us in person if you are not too far away. Enjoy the coffee and donuts, and especially the camaraderie of other members. The October meeting is on Wednesday October 4th 2023, 7:00PM at the Boy Scouts Headquarters at 2320 Brighton Henrietta Townline Road, Rochester, New York 14623. To attend online please register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1250605849977474133>.

Just a reminder, take a look around your radio room. Is there anything you no longer need which you would be happy to give to a new home? If so, please bring it for

our 'Free To New Home Table', but make sure you take it home with you if nobody claims it. If you would like money for it save it until November and the annual auction!



OCTOBER 2023
VOLUME 78, ISSUE 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

MONTHLY PROGRAM	1
BOARDZ BUZZ	2
MEMBERSHIP	3
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	3
RARA APPAREL / MERCHANDISE	4
SILENT KEYS	4
EDUCATION	5
ELMERS' CORNER	5
MORSE CODE TRAINING	6
ELMERS	7
RAFFLE PRIZES	7
PUBLIC SERVICE UPDATE	8
SEPTEMBER MEETING REVIEW	10
ANNUAL AUCTION IN NOVEMBER	11
IT LOOKED SO EASY (A RIBBON MICROPHONE STORY)	12
CALENDAR	15
VE TEAM	16
NEWS FROM AREA CLUBS	17
ANTIQUE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION FALL	19
COURSES ANNOUNCEMENT	
AMATEUR'S CODE	19
RAGS OF THE PAST	20
RARA HAMFEST SPONSORS	23
RARA OFFICERS	24
AREA CLUB CONTACTS	25



BOARDZ BUZZ

SCOTT THEIS, W2LW, PRESIDENT

“Moving to the Next Item on the Agenda...”

Thank you to last year's board for staying on for another year (with a minor swap in officer roles). And, of course, to the club, thank you for the confidence to reelect me as president.

In the last year, the club has managed to do quite a lot albeit not without challenges. Last-minute negotiations for the Hamfest venue kept us on the edge of our seats. I doubt many know of the extra board meetings organized trying to resolve venue issues. I certainly was mightily concerned first about getting the contract settled and then the concession of being unable to be in command of any potential weather cancellation. At any rate, even through adversity, the event went off very well.

I know I have called out Tim Guyot (KB1POP) before, but I will again. He has been and continues to be a real asset to the club. Also, a hat tip to prior organizers for creating a detailed check list and information to help future producers get the job done.

As soon as I became president last year, two significant challenges arose: finding a new Rag editor and finding someone to manage ILLW. For many years these roles had been fulfilled by Forest Shick (WA2MZG) and Dave Timmons (W2DST), respectively. I want to thank Paul Golman (WA2TAX) for stepping up as our new Rag editor and Jim Stefano (W2COP) for volunteering to manage ILLW.

Speaking of the Rag...

The Rag not only provides information about the club, activities, interesting projects, and information from associated clubs, but, in many ways, it becomes the club's recorded history. If you have not had a chance to look at it, Rags going back to the 1970s have been posted on the newsletter archive (<https://www.rochesterham.org/newsletters.htm>). This was made possible by Forest and Jamie Oliver (KF2B), who scanned old copies and gave me PDFs to post on the web. Hopefully we will republish even more old issues on the web.

Other Challenges

By the time you read this, we will have had a successful banquet. I hosted the club's last banquet in 2019 as Vice President and then we were forced to skip several years. Hopefully this hiatus is the last hangover from COVID for the club. Last year (after all the COVID fun) we were able to restart the annual banquet but, alas, the venue we had been using for many years had also fallen in the face of the previously mentioned condition. We were unable to locate a suitable replacement.

But this year, we were able to secure a new venue and once again host a banquet. This event would not have been possible without the work of Mike Moore (KC2MN) and Brian O'Connor (WA2CGB). Thank you, Mike and Brian!

Some things that run on their own...

There are a lot of people who make things happen. From a management perspective, one thing just gets done without any issues or drama: education. Thank you, Karl Heinz Kremer (K5KHK), Suzanne Bishopp (W2SUZ), and Rich Bishopp (KD2UBJ) for making this happen.

This isn't to say that our educational efforts couldn't use another hand. We're still looking for an academy coordinator, so please don't hesitate to volunteer if you think this is a role for you!

Meetings...

It goes without saying that one of the things clubs do is regularly meet to exchange ideas, socialize, learn things, and generally have fun. During my limited history, the meeting format has pretty much remained the same. Although I will admit that when I joined the club the second time, I was not really focusing on the structure of the meetings, more on learning more about amateur radio. Many years prior I had joined when the meetings were at the fire house. I recall that there was not much structure but some show-n-tell activities at that time.

So, while structure and media are good — are we suffering from what is called in the corporate world 'death by PowerPoint'? Let me know. It would sure be nice to get some additional activities going during the breaks. Let me know your thoughts.

What's Next...

I want to get the field kit purchases completed and work on public service equipment. We have made significant progress on the former but the latter has suffered a few setbacks, primarily regarding the best antenna options for volunteers. Finally, I think a laudable goal is trying to increase education, academy sessions and on-air activities. As I seem to always ask... please consider contributing time, ideas, and any support to help promote the hobby we know and love. Please comment or send questions to president@rochesterham.org.

Thx! 73,
Scott, W2LW

RARA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

As I write this in mid-September we have just reached a total of 600 members! That is our highest membership for many years and a tribute to all those who help to make this such a vibrant and fun club. I will be reporting that number to the ARRL shortly so that we can stay as one of the largest ARRL affiliated clubs.

However, if you read this column regularly you will know that membership lapses on September 30th each year so now is the time to renew if you are not a life member. Thanks to all who have already done so.

To our current members, If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership!

You can join or renew your membership [here](#).

There are many membership benefits, here are just some of them:

- Only members can attend the RARA Annual Auction
- Free admission to the RARA Hamfest
- Access to license classes and discounts for license manuals
- Annual events such as the Picnic and Winterfest
- Membership points for contributing to club events
- Supporting an Organization that you value!

Being a member is also important, as your dues and a healthy membership count contribute to many RARA activities such as Rag subscription, monthly meetings, RARA Academy sessions Elmer's Corner, [groups.io](#) mailing list, Facebook page, etc. Attracting good speakers is greatly helped when we can point to the size of our club, one of the largest ARRL affiliated clubs by the way.



I will be away now until the middle of October so you will not receive confirmation of your renewal until I am back and can work through the backlog but don't let that keep you from renewing!

One important point I would like to remind you of. The software package we use to manage membership is very old and quite cranky. One of its odd features is that it stores the access code you use to get your information from our website in plain text. That means the support team (currently two of us) can see the code so don't use your secret password or confidential information.

I'd also like to give a warm welcome to the following new members who joined the club in the past month:

Daniel Bradley
Hilary Falkner
Tom Falkner
Dylan Fayette
Monica Flowers
Dattatreya Haynes, KA6PAT
Robert Jordan, N5RKN
Liam Parshall
Gabriella Pellegrino
Giovanni Pellegrino
Gary Salvione, KE2QBJ
Michael Sirianni KB2SXO
Tom Slavin
Ken Treffinger K4RSQ
Raphael Willson

If you see any of our new members at a RARA meeting or event make sure to introduce yourself and welcome them to the club!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY OCT 4, 2023 - RARA Meeting In Person and On-Line
7:00 PM - AT THIS LINK <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1250605849977474133>

THURSDAY OCT 5, 2023 - RARA Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM - ONLINE
Email request for link to secretary@rochesterham.org

Saturday Oct 21, 2023 - JOTA / Ham Radio Demonstration, Camp Cutler, Naples, NY

Monday & Tuesday Oct 30-31- Pumpkin Patrol, see article in this issue

RARA APPAREL AND OTHER MERCHANDISE IS NOW AVAILABLE!

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Just a reminder that we now have RARA merchandise available. If you were at the RARA Hamfest back in June you may have seen our new Merchandise Manager Yin He, KD2YIQ with examples of RARA apparel and other items with the RARA logo for sale.

This has been requested by many of our members so we are very pleased to finally be able to make RARA merchandise available. A big Thank You to Yin for her work setting this up.

We plan to expand the offerings as demand and time permit based on your feedback so do please let Yin or the board know if you have any suggestions.

Right now items can be purchased online at www.cafepress.com/rararadio so please check out the website and consider making a purchase. Looking forward to everybody in RARA gear at our next meeting!!



Silent Key

**James A Reilich
WB2YJH**

January 13, 2023

Silent Key

**David W Hoffman
W2ONP**

February 7, 2022



EDUCATION

Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK, Education Coordinator

RARA LICENSE COURSES

Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK, License Class Coordinator

License Classes

Our fall license classes have started. We are currently running a Technician and an Amateur Extra class. Unfortunately, we could not find anybody who was interested in the General level. I am hoping that this will be different for the Winter session that starts in the Fall. If you missed out on the Fall session, please get in touch with us so that we can sign you up for the Winter.

If you are interested in taking a class, please send an email to education@rochesterham.org, and we will put you on the list.

New General Question Pool

As I've mentioned before, since July 1st, all General license exams are now using the new question pool, which means that you need the 10th edition of the ARRL License Manual to study for the test. The 9th edition, which we've used before does not cover the new test.

License Manuals

The current editions of the Technician, General and Amateur Extra license manuals are available to our members at a discount for \$25. For this discount, we unfortunately cannot deliver, and you would have to pick up the manual. If you are interested, please send an email to education@rochesterham.org

The Amateur Extra license manual will expire at the end of June 2024, because of that, we do not want to keep any stock that we might not be able to sell, but we can order a book for you for the same price as our other license manuals.

I usually have some license manuals with me at official RARA events.

RARA ACADEMY

For Saturday November 11, we are tentatively planning a RaRa Academy session about circuit simulation with LTSpice. This will be on Zoom, starting at 10am and running for about two hours. If you are interested in learning the basics of how to simulate an electronic circuit with a free tool, this class will be for you, please register with us by sending an email to education@rochesterham.org. We will send out information about how to join the Zoom session and what software to download and install on your computer the week before the class starts.

If you have anything you would like to teach in a RaRa Academy, please let us know. Even if it's something shorter, we can combine your topic with something else to fill the two hour time slot that we usually aim for.

We are still looking for input in what our next Academy session should cover. To make it easy for our members to provide such input, we created an online survey. Please go to <http://tiny.cc/RaRaAcademySurvey2022> and fill out the survey. If this short link should not work, you can also use this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfe_RvJyAfc2BidWxePLvK1r_CjQosS1PV0Ua6m2zETiyPa-w/viewform

And we are again looking for a volunteer to organize our RaRa Academy sessions. This is a position for which you don't have to be an expert in anything as long as you are good at organizing things, and you will get a front row seat for all Academy presentations. If you are interested in joining our education team, please let us know.

RARA ELMERS' CORNER

Suzanne Bishopp, W2SUZ

Rich Bishopp, KD2UBJ

Elmers' Corner Coordinators

It was so great seeing everyone again, and enjoyed meeting some new faces as well at our last meeting. We talked about field deployment, the best antennas for the job – and we had a great conversation on how to reduce RF in an apartment building, and the best antenna set up for that.

We don't always talk about antennas...well, maybe we sneak a question in at almost every meeting, but we also answer ANY RADIO question you've got. If we don't know the answer, we will find some one who does and connect you with that person.

If you would like to see a recording of the last meeting, please send me an email and I will hook you up with the link.

If you have any questions that you would like us to be prepared to answer, please email them to us at elmerscorner@rochesterham.org, and we will make sure that we are prepared for our Zoom meeting.

As always, bring your coffee, tea or other favorite morning beverage and join us for our Zoom meeting, the first Saturday of the month at 10AM.

Can't wait to see you there.

ELMERS' CORNER

1st Saturday of the month
September – May

Next Zoom Meeting:

October 7th 10AM – 12PM
November 4th 10AM-12PM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?pwd=MG5DZXd6SFovN3lXa0NNTzZM5UnBLUT09)
[pwd=MG5DZXd6SFovN3lXa0NNTzZM5UnBLUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?pwd=MG5DZXd6SFovN3lXa0NNTzZM5UnBLUT09)

Meeting ID: 834 8467 4667
Passcode: 786545

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,83484674667#,,,,*786545# US (New York)
+13126266799,,83484674667#,,,,*786545# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kiOoVkCMY>

Suzanne – W2SUZ
Rich – KD2UBJ

MORSE CODE TRAINING

Dave Wilson, WA2HOY, RXCWG Coordinator

The RXCW Group assists Hams wanting to learn Morse Code or to develop their CW skills.

BEGINNERS MORSE CODE ZOOM CLASSES

Peter Fournia, W2SKY, hosts Morse Code classes on Thursday evenings 7pm. No experience required. Join the group at any session. Register at:
pfournia@gmail.com

MORSE PRACTICE FOR ALL LEVELS ON ZOOM AND ON THE AIR

Tim Brown, WB2PAY, hosts Zoom code practice for all levels on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm. For On Air schedules contact Tim at tjbrown@rochester.rr.com

RXCWG INTERMEDIATE CW PRACTICE- 7:30pm Thursdays

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkVVl0RjRlYXljc3pOUT09)
[pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkVVl0RjRlYXljc3pOUT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkVVl0RjRlYXljc3pOUT09)

Meeting ID: 799 6621 2852

Passcode: tpjz8e

W1AW On The Air CW Practice

<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>

Time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
9 AM		Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow
4 PM	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast
7 PM	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow
10 PM	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast

SLOW - 5, 7 1/2, 10, 13 and 15 wpm

FAST - 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 wpm

FREQ(MHz) - 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675, 50.350, 147.555

RADIO ELMERS

Name	Call	Area	Email
Tim Brown	WB2PAY	Ogden	tjbrown@rochester.rr.com
Dave Carlson	N2OA	Batavia	kdcarlso@gmail.com
Lawrence Hill	N2AJX	Henrietta	lawrence.hill@rit.edu
Rich Hoffarth	K2AXP		rhoffarth2000@yahoo.com
Bill Kasperkoski	WB2SXY	Pittsford	wb2sxy@gmail.com
Don Kiser	AC2EV	N Greece	dkiser100@gmail.com
Karl Heinz Kremer	K5KHK	Chili	k5khk@khk.net
Tim Magee	WB2KAO	Greece	585-704-5747
Mike Moore	KC2NM		mikemoore@ieee.org
Peter Schuch	WB2UAQ	Perinton	pschuch@rochester.rr.com
Forest Shick	WA2MZG	Webster	fshick3@gmail.com
Dave Timmons	W2DST	N Greece	dstimmons@gmail.com
Steve Verzulli	KA1CNF		verzulli@yahoo.com
Dan Waterstraat	W2DEW	Henrietta	higreen@rochester.rr.com

CW ELMERS

Name	Call	Area	Email
Ned Asam	W2NED	Pittsford	w2ned@frontiernet.net
Tim Brown	WB2PAY	Ogden	tjbrown@rochester.rr.com
Pete Fournia	W2SKY	Penfield	pfournia@gmail.com
Bill Hopkins	AA2YV	Brighton	whopkin4@naz.edu
Bob Karz	K2OID	Webster	rkarz@rochester.rr.com
Joe Rowe	AG2Y	Webster	ag2y@rochester.rr.com
Harry Williams	KF2TV	Kingsland, GA	harryw7872@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER RAFFLE PRIZES

- Alpha Antenna \$100 Gift Certificate
- ARRL Handbook
- MFJ-107B LCD Clock
- Heil T Shirt-M

OCTOBER 2023 PUBLIC SERVICE UPDATE

MIKE MOORE, KC2NM, PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATOR

The deadline for the October RARA Rag falls before the September Fairport Lift Bridge Regatta and the Wilmot Breakaway Challenge bike ride dates. Look for coverage of those events in the November RARA Rag.

2023 Challenge Trophy Camporee JOTA @ Camp Cutler

The Seneca Waterways Challenge Trophy Camporee (CTC) is an annual, weekend camporee featuring 800+ activities, and is attended by 2000+ scouts and scouters from the US and Canada. Each CTC features a large number of patches that can be earned, collected and traded. The Camporee will be held at J. Warren Cutler Scout Reservation, 7131 Gulick Road, Naples, NY 14512 and it will be held Oct 20-22. This year the CTC will be held on the Scouting Jam-boree On the Air Weekend. (JOTA). We will have our field station set up in the demonstration area to introduce the scouts to the joys of Ham Radio.



Dave, KB2KBY at 2022 CTC Demonstration Station

Remaining events in the public service calendar are listed in the following table. Visit https://rochesterham.org/public_service.htm for more information and to volunteer.

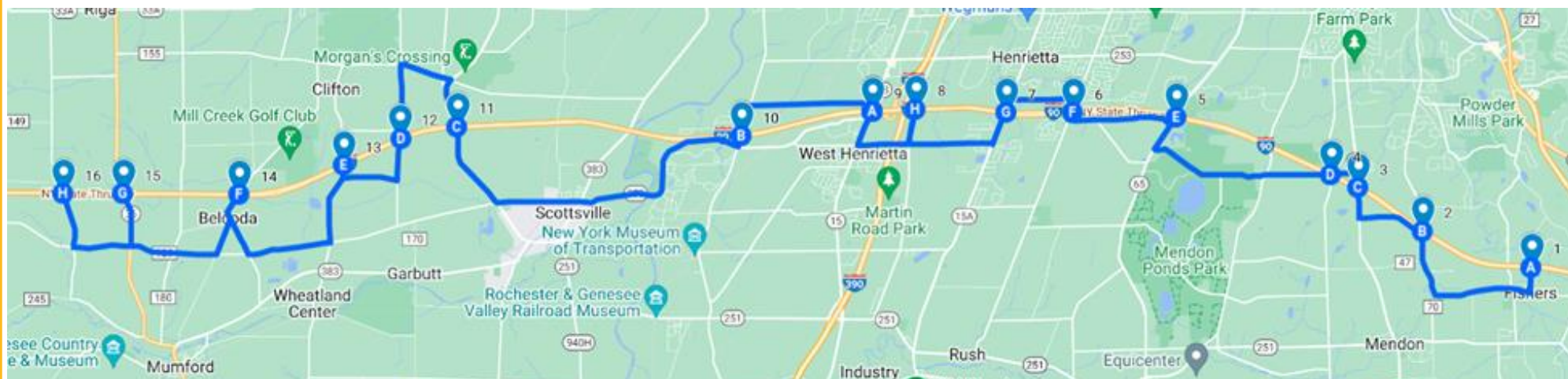
Event	Location	Day	Date
Fairport Lift Bridge Regatta	Erie Canal – Fairport, NY	Saturday	Sept. 23, 2023
Wilmot Breakaway Ride	UR Central Lab, 211 Bailey Road, West Henrietta	Saturday	Sept. 30, 2023
JOTA / Ham Radio Demonstration - CTC	Camp Cutler, Naples, NY	Saturday	Oct. 21, 2023
Pumpkin Patrol	Overpasses of the New York State Thruway	Monday and Tuesday	Oct. 30-31, 2023
Finger Lakes Tour de Cure	Xerox Campus Webster	Saturday	June 8, 2024
MS Roc the Ride Great Lakes Adventure	Lakeside Beach State Park	Saturday	August 12, 2023
ILLW	Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse	Saturday and Sunday	August 17-18, 2024

2023 Pumpkin Patrol

On the next page is the map and assignments for the “2023 Pumpkin Patrol.” Please consider signing up to fill one of the empty slots in the table. We were visited last year at our October meeting by an NYS trooper, and he underscored the importance of this event.

For more information or to register to participate see our Public Service page at https://rochesterham.org/public_service.htm or contact Ed Wilkonski wingstwofly@rochester.rr.com.

2023 Pumpkin Patrol



2023 Pumpkin Patrol Bridges

Our Pumpkin Patrol event captain, Ed Wilkonski K1EM is preparing for this year's event. We will again monitor the 16 bridges crossing the New York State Thruway located in Monroe county. Our role is to observe and report acts of vandalism to law enforcement thereby relieving them of this activity. The goal is to conserve resources and increase public safety. The dates for this statewide event are Monday, Oct. 30, and Tuesday, Oct. 31. Operation will begin just after sunset and will conclude before midnight. Pumpkin Patrol provides an excellent training opportunity to practice a roll-call net. This event is our longest-running Public Service event and is in need of additional volunteers. Current registrations are shown in the following table.

#	Description	Call Sign (30th)	Name (30th)	Call Sign (31st)	Name (31st)
1	Log Cabin	AB2NM	Donald Dunn	AB2NM	Donald Dunn
2	Mile Square Road		Erin		Erin
3	Pittsford-Mendon Road Route 64	NS2B	Bob Smith	NS2B	Bob Smith
4	West Bloomfield Road	KC2NM	Mike Moore	KC2NM	Mike Moore
5	Clover Street Route 65	K4GWA	George Adams	K4GWA	George Adams
6	Pinnacle Road	KD2UBJ	Rich	W2SUZ	Suzanne
7	East Henrietta Road Route 15A	WA2CHV	Jack Kelly	WA2CHV	Jack Kelly
8	Middle Road		Joe DiV		Joe DiV
9	West Henrietta Road Route 15		Cedric		Cedric

9	West Henrietta Road Route 15-2		Tom Wood		
10	East River Road	WB2QCJ	Dean Keyser	WB2QCJ	Dean Keyser
11	Scottsville-Chili Road Route 386		Aidan		?
12	Union Street	KA2WNS	Bill Holtz	KA2WNS	Bill Holtz
13	Wheatland Center Road		Tom Small		Tom Small
14	Winslow Road		?		?
15	Riga-Mumford Road Route 36		?		?
16	Beulah Road	KD2RAF	Dave Mitchell	KD2RAF	Dave Mitchell
	Net Control 7:00-9:00PM	K1EM	Ed Wilkonski	WB2KAO	Tim MaGee
	Net Control 9:30-11:30PM	N2IZX	Lynn Rosenberg	K1EM	Ed Wilkonski
	Goodie Patrol / Rovers	KC2KPL	Chuck Rettig	KC2KPL	Chuck Rettig
	Goodie Patrol / Rovers	K1EM	Ed Wilkonski	K1EM	Ed Wilkonski
	Goodie Patrol / Rovers	KC2MN	Mike Moore	KC2NM	Mike Moore
	Goodie Patrol / Rovers	K1EM	Ed Wilkonski	K1EM	Ed Wilkonski

SEPTEMBER MEETING REVIEW

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT

The September meeting was also our required annual business meeting where we elect, or in this case re-elect, our Officers and Board of Directors. I am pleased to say we had a very good attendance, important since the business meeting needs a quorum of 10% of our full members. That was achieved easily, and our candidates were duly elected.

There were the usual side events, some great prizes were won in the raffle and several items on the free table found new users. The refreshments and donuts were welcome (thanks Rich Hoffarth!). An additional feature was a table where you could purchase RARA branded items managed by our new Apparel manager, Yin He. Thanks, Yin!

Our presentation was from Bob Hannon, who took us through several stages of evolution in his process of constructing antennas for most of the HF bands and also VHF that could fit into his attic. It was good to get back to a practical discussion about antennas, that is always popular, and we had not touched on it for some time. There were a lot of questions and I think we all came away with one or two ideas we would like to try, whether for the attic or some other confined space such as a deck or patio.

I particularly liked his closing 'Words of Wisdom' reminding us that 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it' while admitting he didn't always follow that and importantly the need to compromise, 'the perfect is the enemy of the good.' Thanks, Bob, for a very interesting evening. And as always, thanks to our media guys who make the hybrid meetings run so seamlessly.



ANNUAL AUCTION IN NOVEMBER

BRIAN O'CONNOR, KA2CGB

The **RARA ANNUAL AUCTION** will be held on Wednesday, 1 November.

Take time to look around your Shack, Workbench, Desk, Closet or Garage for that Radio, Antenna, Tuner, Tool, Tester or Accessory that another Ham can put to good use.

Your item will command a higher value if you clean and test it before the auction.

Some basics — The auction is a members-only event (members may bring one guest), so please renew your membership online if you haven't done so already. Our vice president and membership secretary, Tim Barrett, K9VB, will be at the entrance checking membership, and will be able to process new members and renewals if they were unable to do so in advance.

RARA members are welcome to bring three items that may be of interest to a fellow ham. Each item should be clearly labeled with three important pieces of information: (1) your name & call; (2) description; (3) condition (is it working?); and (4) your desired starting price. The "Auction Item Description" form will be included in the next RAG and will also be available as a PDF for download on the RARA web site.

RARA will be offering donated items including

- HF & V/UHF Transmitters, Receivers and Transceivers
- rf Power Amplifiers
- SWR and Wattmeters
- Antennas and Tuners
- Station Power Supplies
- Laboratory Power Supplies
- Signal Generators
- Oscilloscopes

I'm expecting lots of Good Stuff to be on offer. More details in next month's RAG.



IT LOOKED SO EASY

(A Ribbon Microphone Story)

Forest Shick, WA2MZG

Mike is still on vacation communicating somewhere – a podcast or POTA activation or ?. Since he promised an update in the September Rag, I guess I better fill in for him. Except this is the October Rag!



As the title states – So Easy! Guess what? It really is easy - but detail oriented. Let's start with what we have learned so far.

Lessons Learned

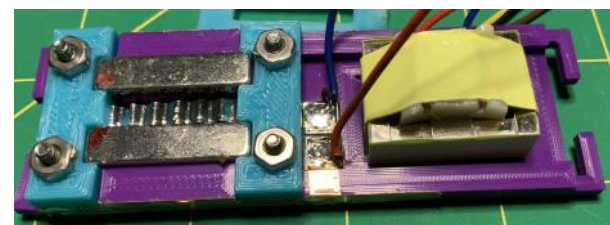
- The videos are misleading – I wonder how many microphones were built before one worked? Be sure to watch for the small hints.
- Isopropyl alcohol is a handy tool – wet the paper covered foil to make cutting and handling easier, clean the surfaces that will be contacts and surfaces that the copper tape will be applied to.
- When using copper tape be sure to clean the copper surfaces and solder the overlapping pieces together - many adhesives are not conductive.
- An Xacto knife blade is only good for a few cuts of the very thin foil then it must be replaced. Do not cut anything else with the blade. A slightly used blade will cause tears in the foil.
- You'll never have enough patience!
- The slightest breeze can take the crinkle out of a ribbon, that includes setting the mic down too fast or dropping it. Protect the crinkle, even from air movement while handling.
- Handle the magnets with care - don't let them slam together or you will be buying more magnets – they are fragile.
- Threaded holes in PLA (plastic) do not make a strong mount. They are great for holding the screws during assembly but you need real nuts to compress the assembly properly.
- Tighten your hardware and then check it.
- Test continuity through the mic - things change!
- Use non magnetic tools

Update

The thrill of this project is still high - building a quality microphone - how cool.

Since the project began we made a few changes along the way.

- The simple motor frame design - 2 identical halves - has given way to:
 - A frame that will hold the ribbon, magnets and transformer
 - 2 blocks to clamp the ribbon
 - Threaded holes to hold the screws during assembly
 - 4 hooks to hold the frame using O-rings, inside the mic housing
 - A snug fit for the magnets so glue is not needed
 - Copper tape to replace some of the wiring



- Winding our own transformer is on the back burner
- Now that we have a working design - try aluminum foil again - curiosity

Building The Microphone

At this point I was planning on detailed instructions to build the microphone. Most of the online videos I referenced in the June article will provide much better information than I can provide in a reasonably sized article.

Watch the videos. Watch the small details carefully. Beware that not all the tidbits you need are in the videos - especially about magnets.

Problems

The delay of this 3rd article was not only summer but we had a few issues to overcome.

Repeatability - we would get a mic working and the next day it was dead. I measured the resistance across the mic terminals. A working mic was a few tenths of an ohm. A non working mic was much higher, many ohms. I had designed in threaded plastic holes. Unfortunately the plastic "relaxed" under the pressure of compressing the contacts and resistance increased. Adding nuts was the solution.

Magnets

A big problem was determining the polarity and location of the poles on the magnets. You need opposing poles (N & S) in order for the mic to function.



As you might expect the small ends of the magnet would be the poles, picture on the left. NOT SO!

The sides of the magnet are the poles. There is no marking. You have to determine which opposing sides are the N and S poles. In the picture to the right, the poles are either the red arrow from side to side or from top to bottom.



A compass was the perfect tool.

There is a video discussing this problem at the following link.

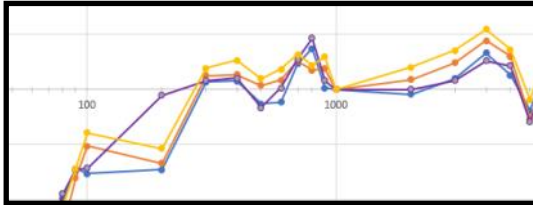
<https://youtu.be/EzqOiBOc-gc>



Room Resonances

While attempting to make frequency response measurements on the microphone, I ran into simple and annoying problems:

- Poor frequency response of a guitar amplifier - I switched to my stereo.
- Electrical and mechanical noises in the living room. The stereo amp and speakers were perfect for frequency response measurements. Care was needed to minimize the electrical and mechanical noise.
- Resonance of the living room and location of people and objects produced variations in what should have been a consistent frequency response. I was able to watch the magnitude of a signal change as I moved around the room or even just moving my arm.



The graph shows 2 microphones tested twice in the exact same position in the room and the exact same signal source location. Notice the variations.

Building Progression

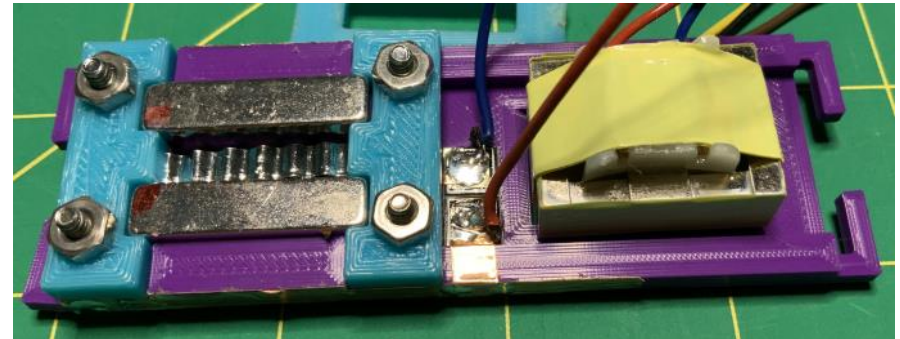


From left to right the pictures show the bare frame. Then copper tape is added to the sides for shielding and also used for contacts to the ribbon. A small PWB is added to solder the transformer leads to. Install the screws and finally the magnets. The tricky process is adding the ribbon and clamps. The magnets are strong enough to pull your nut or screw driver and you can easily damage the ribbon.

NOTE: A protective screen has been designed in to the back of the frame to help protect the ribbon.

As soon as the copper tape is added. Be sure to solder all the tape connections and then measure continuity.

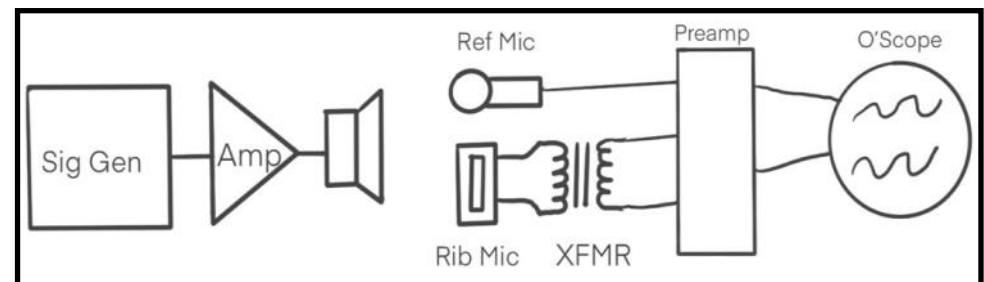
The small PWB is from QRPME <https://www.qrpme.com/>.



This is a completed microphone with small magnets.

Test Setup

The test setup consists of a signal source, amplifier with speaker, a reference mic, a test mic, a mic preamp and an oscilloscope.



Test Equipment

- Signal Generator - KMoon FY6900
- Harman/Kardon AVR20 and Boston Acoustics CR8
- Shure PG57 microphone
- Ribbon Mic
- Transformer Geistnote GN-C36
- Tektronix TDS 2022C oscilloscope
- Misc cables

Testing Problems

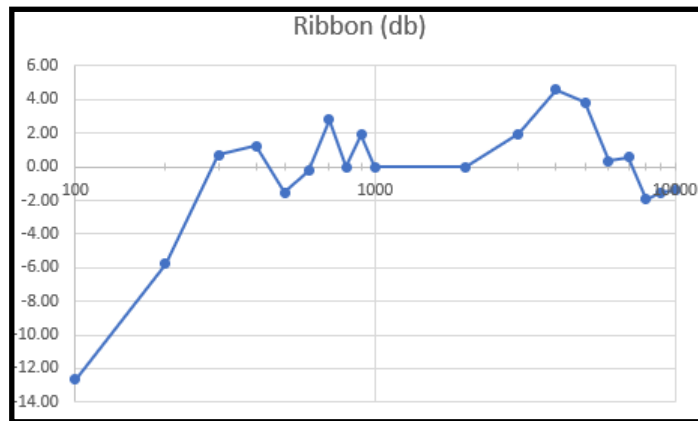
The big issues during testing were electrical noise pickup, mechanical vibrations – a microphone is a vibration sensor, air movement – the ribbon is so light small breezes cause the ribbon to move.

Testing was performed in my living room using the stereo amplifier and speaker. We were able to measure from 10Hz to 20KHz.

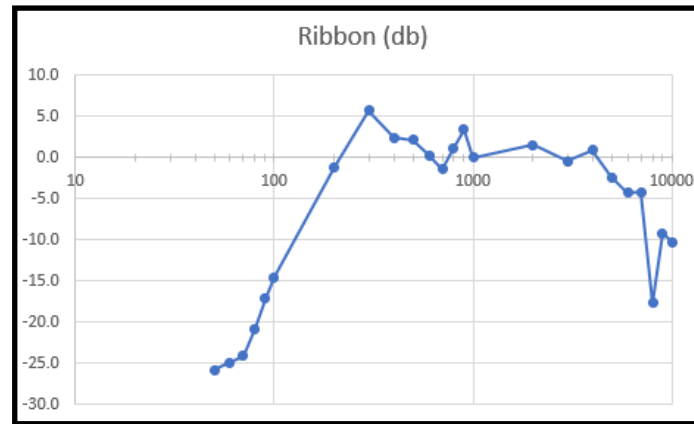


Test Results

This is the graph and data from one of the large magnet microphones. All things considered - it looks good.



FREQ (HZ)	Ribbon (db)
100	-12.6
200	-5.8
300	0.7
400	1.2
500	-1.5
600	-0.2
700	2.8
800	0.0
900	1.9
1000	0.0
2000	0.0
3000	2.0
4000	4.6
5000	3.8
6000	0.3
7000	0.6
8000	-1.9
9000	-1.5
10000	-1.4



FREQ (HZ)	Ribbon (db)
50	-25.8
60	-24.9
70	-24.1
80	-20.8
90	-17.1
100	-14.5
200	-1.1
300	5.8
400	2.5
500	2.2
600	0.3
700	-1.4
800	1.2
900	3.4
1000	0.0
2000	1.5
3000	-0.5
4000	0.9
5000	-2.4
6000	-4.3
7000	-4.2
8000	-17.7
9000	-9.1
10000	-10.3
20000	-3.7

This is the graph and data from a small magnet microphone.

There is a video with a comparison of the ribbon mics and a Shure PG57 at the following link.

<https://youtu.be/ZA3dtahPFUg>



Here is a link from Iowa State University concerning magnetism.

<https://www.nde-ed.org/Physics/Magnetism/index.xhtml>

Conclusion

This microphone project was very successful and definitely a learning experience.

Two majors areas for improvement are:

- Handling the ribbon and keeping the crinkle in the ribbon after it is installed
- Improving the testing of the microphone

The next step is to design a housing that will suspend the microphones on O-rings for mechanical vibration isolation.

Hopefully I will be able to demonstrate the microphone at the October RARA meeting.

RARA CALENDAR

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

October 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 AWA AM QSO Party UK / EI DX Contest	2 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest ARS Spartan Sprint RSGB 80m Autumn Series, CW	3 German Telegraphy Contest Phone Weekly Test	4 RaRa Monthly Mtg BSA & ONLINE 7pm ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 Walk for the Bacon Contest	5 RARA BoD Mtg 6:30pm ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB NRAU 10m Activity Contest NCCC FT4 Sprint SKCC Sprint (Europe) NCCC RTTY Sprint SARL 80m QSO Party	6 K1USN Slow Speed Test	7 ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 9p Collegiate QSO Party Oceania DX Contest , Phone TRC DX Contest Microwave Fall Sprint International HELL Contest CA QSO Party SKCC QSO Party UBA ON Contest, CW
8 Collegiate QSO Party Oceania DX Contest , Phone TRC DX Contest Microwave Fall Sprint International HELL Contest CA QSO Party SKCC QSO Party UBA ON Contest, CW	9 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest 10-10 International Sprint	10 DARC RTTY Sprint Phone Weekly Test NAQCC CW Sprint	11 ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p RSGB 80m Autumn Series, Data A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80	12 ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB EACW Meeting NCCC FT4 Sprint NCCC RTTY Sprint	13 K1USN Slow Speed Test	14 ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 9p Makrothen RTTY Contest NV,AZ, PA, SD QSO Parties Oceania DX Contest, CW Solar Eclipse QSO Party Scandinavian QSO Party Argentina 7MHz Contest Asia-Pac Fall Sprint, CW
15 Makrothen RTTY Contest NV, AZ, PA, SD QSO Parties Oceania DX Contese, CW Solar Eclipse QSO Party Scandinavian QSO Party PODXS 070 Club 160M Sprint	16 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ARRL School Roundup ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest RSGB FT4 Contest Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	17 Phone Weekly Test	18 ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p ARRL School Roundup A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 AGCW Semi-Automatic Evening Walk for the Bacon Contest	19 ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB ARRL School Roundup NTC QSO Party NCCC RTTY Sprint NCCC FT4 Sprint Walk for the Bacon Contest	20 K1USN Slow Speed Test ARRL School Roundup Telephone Pioneers QSO Party	21 ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 9p Telephone Pioneers QSO Party RARA Testing at RIT 10am NY QSO Party YBDXPI FT8 Contest JARTS WW RTTY Contest YLRL DX/NA YL Anniv Contest Stew Perry Top Band Challenge Worked all Germany Contest
22 Telephone Pioneers QSO Party YBDXPI FT8 Contest JARTS WW RTTY Contest YLRL DX/NA YL Anniv Contest Stew Perry Top Band Challenge Worked all Germany Contest IL QSO Party Classic Exchange, Phone	23 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest	24 Phone Weekly Test SKCC Sprint Classic Exchange, Phone	25 ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7p A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 UKEICC 80M Contest	26 ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB RSGB 80m Autumn Series, SSB NCCC RTTY Sprint NCCC FT4 Sprint	27 K1USN Slow Speed Test Zombie Shuffle	28 ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 9p CQ WW DX Contest, SSB ARRL EME Contest
29 CQ WW DX Contest, SSB ARRL EME Contest Classic Exchange, CW	30 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest QCX Challenge	31 Phone Weekly Test Classic Exchange, CW				

VE TEAM

Testing takes place on the 3rd Saturday September - April

Testing Location

RIT
Rochester Institute of Technology
Building 16 -Schmitt Interfaith Center
43.08402626755475, -77.6734520379509

- Easiest path is from Parking Lot D it can be accessed from West Jefferson Rd via Andrews Memorial Dr or Lowenthal Rd
- From parking lot D walk south up the ramp to the Schmitt Interfaith Center.
- Once inside there is an elevator over to your left or stairs in front of you. Go to the first floor and you will find the Skalny room.

Please Note: this room cannot be accessed from the door under the bridge.

Pre-registration is required visit:

<https://hamstudy.org/sessions/14612/inperson> to find the latest session.

More information is available on the RARA website:

https://rochesterham.org/license_testing.htm

Applicants must supply their own pen, pencil, calculator

Testing begins at 10:00AM.

Also Note: The exam is free however the FCC now charges \$35 for applications. This fee is NOT paid to the VE team. It is paid directly to the FCC. You will receive an email from the FCC when your application is processed. We will also have an information sheet available

September VE Session Results

App Type	Existing Call	Name	Location	OpClass	Name Change	Call Change	Result	New Call
Modify	KE2AMJ	William L Mahoney	Rochester, NY	Extra	-	YES	Granted	AD2GE

NEWS FROM AREA CLUBS

MONROE COUNTY ARES / RACES News

Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)® is an amateur radio public service organization based in Monroe County, New York, and is open to all licensed amateur radio operators. Monroe County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is a program of the Monroe County Office of Emergency Management. We participate in training and emergency exercises so that we can serve other agencies during times of communication failure.



The Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc. holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month except in July, August, November and December. The meeting in November is on the third Thursday to avoid interfering with Thanksgiving. Anyone interested, members and non-members, are welcome to attend. The meetings are in person at the county EOC at 6:00 PM and are also available via Zoom. Please check our website for any schedule changes. Prospective members can request an invitation by email to: secretary@monroecountyemcomm.org.

Monroe County ARES/RACES meets on the air every Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM, on the W2ARM 146.61 MHz (-) 110.9 Hz PL and 444.45 MHz (+) 110.9 Hz PL repeaters. Our club callsign is WB2EOC. On nights when we hold our regular meeting, the net is at 5:30 PM.

Web: www.monroecountyemcomm.org

Facebook: Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc.

Twitter @MCARESNY

ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION, RDXA

Please check our website www.rdxa.com for up to-date information regarding meeting locations and requirements, if any.



XRX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The XRX Amateur Radio Club meets the second Thursday of the month (except July and August). 7PM at the Webster Recreation Center. Zoom meeting info, when available, is sent out to our mailing list. How to subscribe and up-to-date information is always on our website at <http://xarc.us>. We have a System Fusion repeater south of the city on 145.290, and another on 444.825 west of the city that is also D-Star capable. Both are also analog capable with 110.9Hz tone. All are welcome.

AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTHERN TIER, ARAST

ARAST meets the third Thursday of every month at the Emergency Communications Center on Harris Hill in Big Flats, next to the National Soaring Museum. Our Chemung County ARES (CCARES) organization meets the first Tuesday of the month except February at the same location. Both organizations serve amateurs in Chemung, Steuben and Schuyler counties in New York and Bradford and Tioga counties in Pennsylvania. All are welcome to attend our meetings.

NOTE: Both CCARES and ARAST monthly meetings are now being held both in person and online. Check out the Upcoming Events at our website, www.arast.info, for the latest details.

Don't forget to check out our repeaters when you visit the area. N3AQ 147.36(+) and the W2ZJ 146.70(-) are the principal 2-meter repeaters. The latter can also be accessed via Echolink node 574415 with the call sign KD2QND-R. A full list of repeaters that can be heard in the Twin Tiers area surrounding Chemung County can be found at http://www.arast.info/arast_website/public/repeaters.php.

We also invite you to check out our new 6-meter net on Wednesday evenings at 9 p.m. local time on 50.200 MHz USB. The net usually lasts approximately one hour. Operators are encouraged to check in and participate in the round table discussions or simply stop by from time to time. We would welcome participation from RARA members.

COMMUNITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, CARC

If you are interested in being a part of this forward thinking and active club, visit us at a meeting or join us on one of our weekly nets. We meet at the Hoag Library (134 S. Main St. Albion, NY) on the first Saturday of each month at 7PM. Each meeting has a brief training/refresher period with upcoming topics including: net protocol, repeater set-up/maintenance, and digital signaling. The club holds a net every Sunday evening at 8pm (winter) and 9PM (summer) - 0100 UTC Monday - on 147.585 simplex, and we host the Thursday Night Social Net, Thursday at 8:30PM on 147.285+. We'd love to hear you check-in!

DRUMLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Drumlins Amateur Radio Club meets every third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Wayne County EMO/Sheriff's Office 7376 State Hwy 31 #1000, Lyons, NY 14489. Doors open at 7 pm, meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Announcements will be made on the 146.685 repeater. The Drumlins ARC website address is <http://drumlinsarc.us/>

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION OF PERINTON, DCAP

DCAP members continue to experiment with leading edge digital communication modes. We were formed in 1994 to foster the development of local and regional packet radio networks using AX25 and TCP/IP. Today we have members using the club sponsored DSTAR repeater (KB2VZS on 444.8MHz), several personal and publicly accessible DSTAR hotspots, Yaesu System Fusion systems on non-club repeaters and DMR systems through repeaters and personal hotspots. DCAP members meet for breakfast at 7AM nearly every Saturday morning at Rikki's Family Restaurant in the village of Fairport and everyone is welcome to join us. Talk in is on the KB2VZS analog repeater on 146.715MHz with a PL tone of 110.9Hz.

KEUKA LAKE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, KLARA

Klara elections were held at our September meeting here is results of our Board:

- Jim Caneen- President
- Joel Fiske- Vice President
- Belinda Connor- Secretary
- Jerrilyn Baker- Treasurer
- John Babbitt
- Donna Fiske
- Dave Hartman

Our next big project is the "Wineglass Marathon" on Oct 2nd.

We will assist our neighbors at ARAST with their Hamfest. We will be doing testing for them.

ORLEANS COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Orleans County ARC meets every 2nd Monday of the month at the Orleans County Emergency Operations Center, 14064 West County House Road, Albion, NY 14411. Doors open at 6:00PM, meeting starts at 7:30PM. Anyone with an interest in amateur radio is welcome. Program topics vary from month to month.

The club has an open two-meter net every Tuesday night at 9:00PM local time on the club repeater, WA2DQL/R (145.27 -600KHz offset, 141.3 tone). Everyone is welcome to check in.

See the club website <http://ocarc.us> or contact club Secretary Ron Craig, N5BNO for more information.

ROCHESTER VHF GROUP

You are invited to
join us on-line &
on-the-air! We're
here to help you to
use the license that
you worked so hard to get.



Check out what we do by visiting our
website at <http://RVHFG.org> to start.

Join our e-mail group by sending a message
to RVHFG+subscribe@groups.io.

Join our weekly on-the-air nets on SSB:
2 meter band - Monday 9 PM 144.260 USB
6 meter band - Thursday 9 PM 50.205 USB

No VHF SSB radio (yet) to join the nets?
Log-in to Echolink ka2ene-L #23426

We can help to answer the question, "What radio
should I buy?" Here's a list of HF+++ radios, those
with the HF bands and at least three VHF bands,
giving you access to all sorts of VHF fun. Research
each one to see which serves you best. Ask
questions on our email list. We're here to help!

Yaesu FT-100D	Yaesu FT-817	Yaesu FT-818
Yaesu FT-847	Yaesu FT-857	Yaesu FT-897
Icom IC-706MKIIG	Icom IC-7000	Icom IC-7100
Icom IC-9100	Kenwood TS-2000	

Some are older models and some are newer models,
but all provide access to the 6 meter, 2 meter, and
70 centimeter bands using both traditional FM and
the exciting narrow-band SSB mode that supports
unexpectedly long-distance (100's of km's routinely
and 1,000's of km occasionally) VHF communication.
These are good all-around radios no matter what
club you end up affiliating with later. We hope its us.

SKENOH ISLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, SIARC

The Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7:30PM at the Ontario County Safety Training Facility, 2914 County Road 48, Town of Hopewell. We have License Exam Testing every other month which begins at 6:30PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 11th. There will not be a meeting or VE testing in October.

SIARC is also holding a Health and Welfare NET Monday through Friday each week at 2000 hours on the SIARC 146.820 repeater (located in Canandaigua, NY), Tone 110.9. This net is to pass along general information and keep hams in touch. All hams are invited to participate.

ROCHESTER RADIO REPEATER ASSOCIATION

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association, RRRRA will not be having its regular meetings for July and August. We will be on summer hiatus. Our next meeting will be on September 15th.

Stay tuned to our web site, www.k2rra.org for any current information. We are still looking for a club Secretary. If you wish to apply contact one of the listed club officers or show up at a regular meeting. The current club officers are Bob Shewell - N2HJD - President, Bob Odell - N2BZX - Vice President, and Bob Smith - NS2B-Treasurer / Membership Chairman. RRRRA also accepts donations to the club. If you are not currently a member and want to support RRRRA, you can join at our monthly meeting or on our web site using PayPal. www.k2rra.org

ANTIQUE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION MUSEUM FALL COURSES

The AWA museum is announcing their fall schedule of classes for the public. You do not have to be a member to enjoy these well received educational classes. Details are on the web site at:

<https://www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/learn-build-fix-classes/>

THE AMATEUR'S CODE

Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

THE RADIO AMATEUR IS:

CONSIDERATE	Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
LOYAL	Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local club, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.
PROGRESSIVE	With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.
FRIENDLY	With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.
BALANCED	Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.
PATRIOTIC	With station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

20 Years Ago, October 2003

The cover page of this issue was a delight to read and would make you proud to be a local resident of our school system and a member of RARA. OK, that requires clarification. First, we read Brad Armstrong, W1YX, RARA Vice President, announcing October's very exciting meeting with the topic Amateur Radio Aboard the International Space Station, or ARISS. This very interesting talk was given by Peter Fournia W2SKY and Jim Stefano W2COP and had a really unique twist we'll detail in a moment. You need to know that at this time NASA and their current missions centered on the ISS activity that put astronauts aboard to perform needed scientific experiments that could only be accomplished in the environs of outer space. In a streak of genius a collaboration between NASA, the FCC and the ARRL, it was decided to put Amateur Radio in the Space Station with emphasis on contacting school groups to provide a truly educational experience where students could talk with and ask questions of the orbiting scientists. Astronauts, like the rest of us, had to go out and study and take Amateur Radio exams to obtain their ham tickets! The ARISS program was very successful and many such QSO's were made throughout the country. But wait... there's more. Some forty-five years ago a young man named Ed Lu was walking down the aisles of Webster Thomas High School as a student. But then twenty years ago, Ed Lu the astronaut was aboard the ISS talking from a 2 meter hand held radio, 245 miles back to earth, to his alumni-students. The land based school community was much more than a classroom as Jim Stefano, active in the local radio repeater scene for some time ago, connected the school's radio equipment to IRLP and Echolink for wide dissemination to those connected. Locally, the whole school was connected and watching as the entire campus was connected via their closed circuit TV channel. Yes, there's more, as even the entire community of Webster, NY could view this newsworthy event as a feed was sent to the Webster Community TV Channel. Please know that this wasn't the first time for such notoriety for Webster, NASA and RARA, but this was the second time Ed Lu, the astronaut, talked to Webster students, then with Klein Road South Elementary School on May 27th.

Writing for the Licensing classes was Ray Pickens WA2MYG (sk), who told that this Fall season will see classes begin on September 8th. Classes offered are 5 WPM code, and theory lectures for both Technician and General license seekers. The Extra Class theory instruction was eliminated for this session due to lack of students signing up. Elsewhere in this Rag could be found a Want Ad saying "Wanted Extra Class Theory Instructor."

What's the end game in Licensing classes, you ask? Well, that would be License Testing, and talking to that subject was RARA's Amateur Volunteer Examiner (VE) group under George Platteter AA2FO. George wrote in detail the Dates, times and place where testing is held. RARA's testing was typically on Saturdays with registration occurring at 8:30 a.m., testing at 9:00 a.m. and in RIT's Building 76. The team was ready to test all of the then current Amateur Radio License Exams. At that time RARA was not the only testing group in the

area as in this issue you could find advertised a W5YI-VEC Testing Team headed by Charles Barkowski N2IM. That team offered testing monthly the first Thursday of the month at Kodak Park's building 28.

The Rochester VHF Group announced a surprise meeting with the Nobel Laureate Dr. Joe Taylor, K1JT, coming to Rochester on October tenth to present on weak signal DSP and it's application to ham radio. This author was there, the program was outstanding, and included mind boggling reports on Trans-Atlantic two meter work by amateurs using Dr. Taylor's in-process FSK-144 and JT-44 software. Today, we all know his work as WSJT and software such as FT8!

Greg Michels KC2GXV, working with RARA's Educational Committee and Monroe County RACES, was happy to announce some new emergency communications training opportunities. Greg listed initial training topics as: (1) American Red Cross Disaster Services, (2) Directed Net/Traffic Handling Workshop and (3) Mass Enrollment of ARRL Level 1 Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course.

With regret it was announced that William Smith N2RFZ, was reported a Silent Key. From the Want Ads you could buy a Cushcraft R-7000 vertical antenna, new in the box, for \$295.00. A new commercial advertiser was Howard J. Greenwald AB2HD, Patent Attorney, offering a free consultation to RaRa members in a quest to patent your invention.

(Cover page of October 2002 RARA Rag appears on next page)



the RARA RAG

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 56

OCTOBER 2003

NO. 2

ARISS

Brad Armstrong W1YX

First, let me thank all of you who showed up to enjoy the September presentations. They were a great success and the attendance and participation of the members made the programs all that much better!



This month we will have a joint presentation by Peter Fournia, W2SKY and Jim Stefano, W2COP; all about the September 10th ARISS (Amateur Radio aboard the International Space Station) event at Thomas High School in Webster. A team of nine hams operated a satellite station in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR

RaRa MEETING

October 3, 2003

8:00 PM

HENRIETTA FIRE HALL
3129 E. HENRIETTA RD.

ARISS

Presented by

Peter Fournia W2SKY

Jim Stefano W2COP

Webster Hears Voice from Space Station

Daryl Bell D&C Staff Writer

WEBSTER- It's been 23 years since Ed Lu walked the hallways of Webster Thomas High School, but on Wednesday his voice was coming from every in-school audio/visual unit. Even more impressive, his words were coming from out of this world.

Lu, a NASA astronaut, is currently circling the globe in the International Space Station, which is about 245 miles above Earth.



CARLOS ORTIZ

Lead amateur radio operator Peter Fournia, left, talks to astronaut Ed Lu Wednesday as Webster Thomas High School 11th-grader Kristin Mannella and 12th-grader Jeff Keesom follow the trajectory of the space station via computer. Lu is an alumnus of the Webster school. [Day in Photos]

As he did last May 27 when he spoke to inquisitive students at Klein Road South Elementary School, Lu spoke into a handheld radio from the space station to students at Webster Thomas. Lu attended Klein Road South 30 years ago.

"This shows that you can do anything you set your mind to," said Richard Christman, the head of Webster Thomas' science department. "It shows there are no limits to

CONTINUED - PAGE THREE

RaRa RAG 1

40 Years Ago, October 1983

Note: This 40 Year Article is quite short as the content had way too much non-RARA inserts from news groups, including three full pages of STS-9 Orbit data, which is of zero interest and/or use today and violates this Historian's senses.

Forty years ago some of you were not born yet while others were out trying to buy your first personal computer. Many were buying a Radio Shack TRS-80, a Vic-20 or even an Atari, and if so, this October meeting was for you. The presenter, Ed Neubauer N2BXA, spoke on how to use your computer for Amateur Radio applications. Ed's program, held at the 80/8 Club on University Avenue, was augmented by several RARA members who brought their machines (yes, that's what they were called) to make demonstrations.

General announcements included President Bill Theil K2KGE, telling that the newly printed and much anticipated *RARA Directory* would be mailed to each member. In previous years they had to be picked up at any club meeting. Scotty Ross KZ2U, of neighboring Canandaigua, invited RARA folks to attend a meeting of the Squaw Island ARC where a special meeting of FCC staffers from the Buffalo FCC Office who will speak on recent rules changes. Ed Holdsworth N2EH (sk), informed readers that orders would be taken at the next meeting for RARA Jackets at \$16.00 to \$23.50 each.

The Kodak Park ARC announcement announced their new slate of officers was: President Al de Blicke KW2X, VP to Steve Maier KZ2R, and Gene Ahl WA2JRP, to Secretary/Treasurer and John Schooley K2NC (sk) as Station Manager.

The Rochester VHF Group, reported on by Ed MaHar WB2ZJY, revealed that the groupers were really seeking ever higher goals as their talk was on 2 GHz microwave networks given by Pat Sheedy WB2DHY.

With regret it was reported that Bill Ehlers WA2JMH, was reported as a silent key. From the Want Ads you could buy a large collection of *QST* and *Ham Radio* magazines from Ron Langley KB2KZ. *Harvey's Ham*, KB2LB, selling Ten-Tec, Dentron and other ham gear, remained a long-time commercial advertiser.

The RARA RAG

Published by

The Rochester Amateur Radio Association
INCORPORATED

VOL. 36

OCTOBER 1983

NO. 2

RaRa MEETS OCTOBER 7th COMPUTER PROGRAM

Have you been thinking about a personal computer for use at home or in the ham shack but weren't quite sure which one would be best for you? Or do you own a VIC-20 or a CoCo or an Atari or a TRS-80 and wonder how other hams are using them? Then come to the 40/8 Club Friday night October 7th at 8 p.m. when Ed Neubauer, N2BXA, will explore the dark mysteries of computers and will line-up several notable area hams to bring in their systems to demonstrate to the group.

The meeting will also feature a short business and committee update as well as an outstanding awards presentation by Don Drennan, W2EBF, and the scrumptious goodies served up by our own chef-extrodinaire, George Muller, WA2IEO. Remember also that dues are now payable, so stop by the membership table too and see Lloyd Caves, WA2EFU.

S.E.T. '83

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The Simulated Emergency Test will be conducted the weekend of October 15 and 16, 1983. The major activity will be on Saturday, October 15, with the exercise itself taking place in the morning and a critique in the afternoon. The scenario is being prepared by the staff at the Office of Emergency Preparedness and will be designed to test our total response.

I am looking forward to a good turnout at both the test itself and the critique, which will be held in the Auditorium at 111 Westfall Road.

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

SEE INSIDE
FOR LATEST STS-9
INFO AND MAPS

RaRa DIRECTORIES TO BE MAILED

As an added service to RaRa members, the RaRa Directories will be mailed to all full members who have renewed as of the mailing date, probably in late November.

This will allow members who cannot come to meetings or who live out-of-town to receive this valuable club benefit which in the past had to be arranged on a case-by-case basis.

However, there will be only one mass mailing, so renew early to be sure to get your directory. Directory distribution after the mailing will be handled like it has in the past - either at the meetings, via a friend, or \$.54 first-class postage paid for by the member.

EVERYTHING YOU HAVE EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE FCC BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK !

by Scotty Ross, KZ2U

This is your chance. Jim Taylor and Cindy Tedesco, both from the FCC Field Operations Bureau in Buffalo have promised to attend the October 11th meeting of the Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club in Canandaigua. Jim will bring the group up to date on the latest FCC changes and revisions after which the FCC people will be available for target practice.

The meeting starts at 8 p.m. and is held in the basement of the Ontario County Office Building #2 (County Road 46) about 4½ miles east of Main Street. Turn off Main Street at Saltonstall Street. It is not the easiest place to find but it is as close as your friendly neighborhood 22/82 repeater. Come visit us please.

SILENT KEY
WA2JMH
William J. Ehlers

RARA HAMFEST SPONSORS PLEASE SUPPORT OUR HAMFEST SPONSORS



When you purchase
from one of our
sponsors, PLEASE
mention RARA and
THANK them for
their support



<https://baofengtech.com/>

Instagram: @btech_radios

Facebook: @baofeng.tech.radio



<https://samlexamerica.com/>



www.arrl.org



www.dxengineering.com

QRP Quarterly

QRP Amateur Radio Club
International

www.qrparci.org



[https://cq-amateur-
radio.com/](https://cq-amateur-radio.com/)



<https://heilhamradio.com/>



www.mfjenterprises.com



www.n3fjp.com



<https://alphaantenna.com/>



[https://
www.hamradiodeluxe.com/](https://www.hamradiodeluxe.com/)



<https://cometantenna.com/>



[https://
www.easywayhambooks.co
m/index.cfm](https://www.easywayhambooks.com/index.cfm)

RARA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS

OFFICERS

President: Scott Theis, W2LW	(845) 774-9809	president@rochesterham.org	Treasurer: Brian O'Connor, KA2CGB	(585) 721-2346	treasurer@rochesterham.org
Vice-President: Tim Barrett, K9VB	(646)496-5015	vicepresident@rochesterham.org	Secretary: Mike Moore, KC2NM	(585) 721-0011	secretary@rochesterham.org

DIRECTORS

Richard Bishopp, KD2UBJ	(585) 766-5631	rbishopp44@gmail.com	Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK	(585) 210-0840	k5khk@khk.net
Tim Guyot, KB1POP	(585) 406-3163	timguyot@gmail.com	Dave Wilson, WA2HOY	(585) 200-4447	davidrw@rochester.rr.com
Mike Kennerknecht, N2MAK	(585) 754-2444	maken-nerknecht@gmail.com			

ACTIVITY COORDINATORS

Club Historian	Ed Gable, K2MP	egable@rochester.rr.com	Online Meetings	Scott Theis, W2LW	sa_theis@hotmail.com
Club Station Trustee	Dave Enright, K3WHD	denright1228@gmail.com	Public Service	Mike Moore, KC2NM	publicservice@rochesterham.org
Education Coordinator	Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK	education@rochesterham.org	QSL MANAGER	Dave Enright, K3WHD	denright1228@gmail.com
Elmers' Corner	Richard Bishopp, KD2UBJ Suzanne Bishopp, W2SUZ	elmerscorner@rochesterham.org	Raffle Administrators	Forest Shick, WA2MZG Jeff Sonstein, WA2RRB	wa2mzg@arrl.net
Groups.io Moderators	Tim Barrett, K9VB Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK	tim.k9vb@gmail.com k5khk@khk.net	RARA Academy	Volunteer Needed	academy@rochesterham.org
Hamfest Co-Producers	Tim Guyot, KB1POP Mike Moore, KC2NM	hfprouder@rochesterham.org	RARA RAG Editors	Paul Goldman, WA2TAX Mike Kennerknecht, N2MAK Susan Aiello, W2SBA Dave Wilson, WA2HOY Mark Pedersen, KC2UES	editor@rochesterham.org
License Testing Coordinator	Don Kiser, AC2EV	dkiser100@gmail.com	Proof Readers		
Media Communications	Tim Guyot, KB1POP	timguyot@gmail.com	Refreshments	Rich Hoffarth, K2AXP	rhoffarth2000@yahoo.com
Meeting Audio	Joe DiVincenzo, AD2DB Scott Czeck, KC1GHT	joedy58@gmail.com scottczeck@gmail.com	Reward Points Administrator	Tim Barrett, K9VB	membership@rochesterham.org
Membership Secretary	Tim Barrett, K9VB	membership@rochesterham.org	Telephone Hotline	Scott Theis, W2LW	sa_theis@hotmail.com
			Webmaster	Scott Theis, W2LW	webmaster@rochesterham.org

ROCHESTER AREA RADIO CLUB CONTACTS

Amateur Radio Association of the Southern Tier (ARAST)

Reiner Dieg, N2PEZ: n2pez@arrl.net

Antique Wireless Association (AWA)

Lynn Bisha, W2BSN: lynnbisha@gmail.com

Astronomy Section Rochester Academy of Science

Mark Minarich: mminaric@rochester.rr.com

Community Amateur Radio Club (CARC)

Joe Gangi, AC2NB: ac2nb.carc@gmail.com

Digital Communications Association of Perinton (DCAP)

Gary Skuse, KA1NJL: ka1njl@arrl.net

Drumlins Amateur Radio Club Ltd. (DARC)

drumlinsarc@gmail.com

Genesee Valley Amateur Radio Assn.

Bill Boyd, N3DSP: N3DSP@lafireline.net

Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association (KLARA)

Jim Caneen, W2JTC: jcpilot@localnet.com

Monroe County ARES / RACES

Iain Marcuson, KC2NLD: secretary@monroecountyemcomm.org

Orleans County Amateur Radio Club (OCARC)

Terry Cook, K2EYS: k2eys@ocarc.us

Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RARA)

Scott Theis, W2LW: president@rochesterham.org

ROC City Net

Joe Merolillo, K2ZX: k2zx52@gmail.com

Rochester DX Association (RDXA)

Chris Shalvoy, K2CS: cshalvoy@att.net

Rochester Institute of Technology ARC

Jim Stefano, W2COP: wireless@mail.rit.edu

Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA)

Bob Shewell, N2HJD: bshewell@frontiernet.net

Rochester VHF Group (RVHFG)

Rus Healy, K2UA: chairman@rvhfg.org

Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club (SIARC)

Steve Benton, WB2VMR: sbenton2@rochester.rr.com

West Side Amateur Radio Club

XRX Amateur Radio Club

Brian Donovan, K2AS: k2as@outlook.com

Rochester Makerspace

David Duckles: rocmakers@gmail.com

NOVEMBER RAG DEADLINE

OCTOBER 15, 2023

RARA MEETS AT 7PM ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.

JOIN US IN PERSON

OR

ONLINE AT:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1250605849977474133>

CONTACT WEBMASTER@ROCHESTERHAM.ORG FOR SUPPORT

Rochester Area Repeater Listing

THE RARA RAG

Published by

Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY, 14692-8333

Hotline – (585) 210- 8910

Website – <http://www.rochesterham.org>